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Website: www.HealthyMS.com/mpha

Diane Hargrove
2005-2006 President

A message from the President

Diane Hargrove, MPHA President

September is quickly approaching and we hope YOU are making plans to attend the 2006 Annual Meeting at the Grand Casino Resort in Tunica, MS. This year our speakers include Dr. Pat Mail, APHA President; Dr. Brian Amy, Mississippi State Health Officer; and Dr. Kenneth Robinson, Tennessee State Health Commissioner. We will have a wide range of workshop topics from which you will be able to choose.

Don't delay! Send in your conference registration form today. If you are an employee of the MS Department of Health, please do not send the \$75.00 registration fee. However, you are responsible for paying your \$12.00 membership dues.

Get Your Dancing Shoes Ready

On Thursday night, our dance will include music provided by the 1-900 Band of Memphis, Tennessee. We'll be stepping through the decades with a variety of music. For more information contact Terry Cousin at 662-563-5603.

2006 Annual Meeting September 20-22, 2006 Grand Casino & Resort Tunica, Mississippi

Make your reservation at the Veranda Hotel, Grand Casino Resort, Tunica, MS by calling 1-800-394-7263. Identify yourself with Mississippi Public Health or Group number s09mpha. Room rates for the conference are \$64 plus tax per night for a single or double room. **Don't wait until the last minute to make your plans.**

Executive Committee Proposes Changes to MPHA By-Laws

The MPHA Executive Committee met on April 7, 2006 and endorsed two proposed changes to the

MPHA By-Laws. These proposed changes were previously voted on in December 2005. The proposed changes are:

1. To increase the dues structure for all levels of membership;
2. To give the Executive Committee the authority to hire an Executive Director for MPHA.

The exact language of the proposed changes is in bold print.

Article II. Dues

Dues for active membership shall be **\$18** annually, retired membership **\$9** annually, and student membership **\$7** annually. A majority of the membership voting shall be required for approval of a change in annual dues.

Dues for Sustaining Memberships shall be at least **\$150** annually, with corporate sustaining memberships limited to **four** individual representatives per **\$150** dues.

Rationale: MPHA is a professional organization. As such, the dues must cover the costs associated with the services we provide. The \$75 registration for the Annual Meeting barely covers the costs of the meals. The organization depends on dues to offset other expenses such as speakers, printing, postage, and other operational costs. It is the goal of MPHA to not only provide a first rate Annual Meeting, but also provide public health information throughout the year. Our neighboring states have membership dues of: Arkansas-\$20; Alabama-\$24; Louisiana-\$25 and Tennessee-\$20. We are at a critical point in maintaining financial stability.

Article V. Executive Committee

It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to supervise all finances of the Association and demand, review, and approve an annual audit of accounts.

The Executive Committee shall have the authority to hire an Executive Director and to negotiate payment for the position as deemed appropriate. The duties and responsibilities of the Executive Director will be determined by the Executive Committee.

Rationale: As a professional organization, MPHA should provide more services to the membership and serve as an advocate for public health issues. The Executive Director would have the responsibility of seeking outside funding sources to sustain his/her salary and expand the programs/services offered by the organization. This change in the bylaw would give the "authority" not "require" the Executive Committee to hire an Executive Director. If the financial situation did not seem stable after a careful review, or if a suitable person was not found, the position would not be filled.

Most of the Public Health Associations throughout the United States have an Executive Director. Those associations are leaders in public health issues for their respective states.

We need MPHA to become a more independent association that is able to address public health concerns at the state and national level while providing quality training to the members.

If you have questions or comments regarding these proposed changes please contact Diane Hargrove (dhargrove@msdh.state.ms.us or 662-563-5603) or Larry Rouse (lrouse@msdh.state.ms.us or 601-266-5251)

Silent Auction & Door Prizes

Your help is still needed in collecting those special items that can be used for door prizes or our Silent Auction. If you have any donations contact Jean Lawes (662-453-4563) or Delmer Roark (662-563-5603)

Calling For Candidates

The MPHA Executive Committee is currently taking nominations for the position of President-Elect. The President-Elect will serve as President for the 2007-2008 cycle. If you or someone you know may be interested in either of these positions, please contact a member of the Executive Committee to make the nomination. The deadline is July 19, 2006. The Committee will select two candidates from those who are nominated and the election will be held at the Annual Meeting. You must be a member of MPHA to run for this position.

MPHA Awards

The Mississippi Public Health Association is currently accepting nominations for Prestige Awards and section awards to be given at the 2006 Annual Conference in September. Nominations for all awards will be accepted until July 31, 2006. Section Award nominations should be sent directly to the appropriate section chairperson.

For more information, please contact Vernesia Wilson at 601-576-7135 or by website at www.msdh.state.ms.us/mpha.

NOTE: You MUST be a member of MPHA to be eligible for a Prestige Award, Section Award and/or Longevity Award.

2006 MPHA Officers

Diane Hargrove – President
Pam Miles – President-Elect
Terri Sasser – Past President
Mark Phillips -- Treasurer
Kay Walker – Secretary

Section Chairs:

Clerical – Ann Parker-May
Environmental Health – Bruce Rawls
Epidemiology – Andrea Miller
Health Administration – Louisa Denson
Physicians/Clinicians – Dr. LeDon Langston
Nutrition – Rebecca Ranager
Nursing – Debbie Lewers
Social Work – Lisa Moore

Standing Committees:

Audit – Jason Easley
Awards – Vernesia Wilson
Exhibits – Judy Parrott
Policy & Resolutions – Larry Rouse

Special Ad-hoc Committees:

Membership – Sandra Hill
Entertainment – Terry Cousin
Exhibits/On-site – Bruce Chamberlain
Silent Auction – Jean Lawes
Door Prizes – Delmer Roark
Voting – Roger Riley
Workshop Coordination – Jerome Winston
Audiovisuals – Malcolm Dodd
Hotel Arrangements – Buddy Daughdrill